

SAC: 361356

State: MN

Benton Coop Tel Co

Form 481 Line No. 610 Description of Functionality in Emergency Situations

Benton Coop Tel Co pursuant to MN Rule "7810.390 Emergency Operations" has:

- Established reasonable provisions to meet emergencies resulting from failures of lighting or power service, sudden and prolonged increases in traffic, illness of operators or from fire, storm, or acts of God including provisions for emergency power that meet or exceed the rule requirement to provide:
 - A minimum of four hours of battery service in each central office.
 - A permanently installed power unit in exchanges exceeding 5000 lines.
 - Mobile power units that can be delivered on short notice and which can be readily connected in offices without installed emergency power facilities.

- Has informed employees as to the procedures to be followed, including reasonable rerouting of traffic around damaged facilities and the deployment of emergency power, in the event of emergency in order to prevent or mitigate interruption or impairment of telecommunications service.

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SAC: 361356

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Benton Coop Tel Co

Form 481 Line No. 1010 Descriptive document for Voice Services Rate Comparability

Line 1010 – Description of Voice Services Rate Comparability: Provide a detailed description of how your pricing of fixed voice services is no more than two standard deviations above the applicable national average urban rate for voice service, as published annually by the Wireline Competition Bureau, as required in 47 C.F.R. § 54.313(a)(10).

On March 20, 2014 the Wireline Competition Bureau announced results of the Urban Rate Survey for Voice Services; as part the FCC Public Notice DA 14-384. Referenced in this public notice are the results required to meet the rate comparability as noted:

“Based on the survey responses, the Bureau also calculated the reasonable comparability benchmark for voice services to be \$46.96. 9

9. Id. at 17694, para. 84.”

As required Benton Coop Tel Co hereby certifies that its current fixed voice services for residential subscribers as defined in the USF/ICC Transformation Order is below \$46.96.

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 Benton Coop Tel Co
 Form 481 Line No. 1210 Lifeline Plans Terms and Conditions

Benton Coop Tel Co does adhere to all Federal Lifeline eligibility rules and regulations as well as Minnesota Administrative Rule "7817.0400 - Eligibility for Telephone Assistance Credits" which states:

Minnesota Administrative Rule 237 Chapter 7817.0400

Subpart 1. Information provided. Each local service provider shall annually mail a notice of the availability of the telephone assistance plan to each residential subscriber in a regular billing. If a subscriber has chosen to receive the regular billing other than through U.S. mail, the local service provider shall send the notice in a regular billing using the delivery method chosen by the subscriber for delivery of the regular billing. The notice must state the following: YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR ASSISTANCE IN PAYING YOUR TELEPHONE BILL IF YOU RECEIVE BENEFITS FROM CERTAIN LOW-INCOME ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS OR MEET CERTAIN INCOME LIMITS. FOR MORE INFORMATION OR AN APPLICATION FORM PLEASE CONTACT

(local service provider). On request, the local service provider shall mail to a person an application form developed by the commission and the Department of Commerce, and a brochure that describes the telephone assistance plan's eligibility requirements and application process.

Subpart 2. Application process. On completing and signing the application certifying under penalty of perjury that the information provided by the applicant is true and that the statutory criteria for eligibility are satisfied, the applicant must return it to the local service provider for enrollment in the telephone assistance plan. An application may be made by the subscriber, the subscriber's spouse, or a person authorized by the subscriber to act on the subscriber's behalf.

Subpart 4. Eligibility criteria. To be eligible for a telephone assistance credit the applicant must:

- A. be a subscriber who resides in Minnesota or has moved to Minnesota and intends to remain; and
- B. be eligible for the federal Lifeline telephone service discount.

Subpart 7. Applicant and recipient responsibilities. Each applicant and each recipient shall provide current information to the local service provider about permanent changes that affect the applicant's or recipient's eligibility.

Subpart 8. Local service provider responsibilities.

- A. A local service provider shall begin providing telephone assistance credits to an applicant in the earliest possible billing cycle but not later than the second billing cycle following submission of a completed application demonstrating eligibility. If certified, the local service provider shall notify the applicant by, for example, placing telephone assistance credits on the bill.
- B. If an applicant is denied eligibility, the local service provider shall notify the applicant in writing of the reasons for the denial, of the right to appeal, and of the right to reapply.

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Rates

Benton Coop Tel Co's Local service rates that serve as its Lifeline Plans are filed in Compliance with the regulatory requirements of Minn. Rules Ch. 7810 and Minn. Rules pt. 7812.0600 as follows:

A. The tariffs or price lists of local exchange carriers must offer the following services to all customers pursuant to Minn. Rules pt. 7812.0600 (basic service requirements):

- ☐ single party voice-grade service and touch-tone capability;
- ☐ 911 or enhanced 911 access;
- ☐ 1 + intraLATA and interLATA presubscription and code-specific equal access to interexchange carriers subscribing to its switched access service;
- ☐ access to directory assistance, directory listings, and operator services;
- ☐ toll and information service-blocking capability without recurring monthly charges
- ☐ one white pages directory per year for each local calling area, which may include more than one local calling area, except where an offer is made and explicitly refused by the customer;
- ☐ a white pages and directory assistance listing, or, upon customer request, a private listing that allows the customer to have an unlisted or unpublished telephone number;
- ☐ call-tracing capability according to chapter 7813;
- ☐ (i) call Trace provisions in tariff mirror Commission's tariff templates.
- ☐ blocking capability according to the Commission's ORDER ESTABLISHING CONDITIONS FOR THE PROVISION OF CUSTOMER LOCAL AREA SIGNALING SERVICES, Docket No. P999/CI-92-992 (June 17, 1993) and its ORDER AFTER RECONSIDERATION, Docket No. P999/CI-92-992 (December 3, 1993).
- ☐ telecommunications relay service capability or access necessary to comply with state and federal regulations.

B. A Separate flat rate service offering is required pursuant to Minn. Rules pt. 7812.0600, subpt. 2. At a minimum, each local service provider (LSP) shall offer the services identified in Minn. Rules pt. 7812.0600, subpt. 1 as a separate tariff or price list offering on a flat rate basis. An LSP may also offer basic local service on a measured rate basis or in combination with other services. An LSP may impose separate charges for the services set forth in subpart 1 only to the extent permitted by applicable laws, rules, and commission orders.

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C. Service area obligations under Minn. Rules pt. 7812.0600, subpt. 3: An LSP shall provide its local services on a nondiscriminatory basis, consistent with its certificate under part 7812.0300 or 7812.0350, to all customers who request service and whose premises fall within the carrier's service area boundaries or, for an interim period, to all requesting customers whose premises fall within the operational areas of the local service provider's service area under part 7812.0300, subpart 4, or 7812.0350, subpart 4. The obligation to provide resale services does not extend beyond the service capability of the underlying carrier whose service is being resold. The obligation to provide facilities-based services does not require an LSP that is not an eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) to build out its facilities to customers not abutting its facilities or to serve a customer if the local service provider cannot reasonably obtain access to the point of demarcation on the customer's premises.

The flat rate services, offered pursuant to Minn. Rules pt. 7812.0600, subpt. 2., include unlimited local service minutes of use. The local services offerings do not include any toll minutes of use. The rates for any toll usage are determined by the rate plans of the Toll Provider(s) that end users are selected by lifeline by end users.

The specific Company terms and conditions for the Companies Lifeline Plans are set forth in the tariff pages included in Exhibit 1, attached.

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Exhibit 1

SAC: 361356

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Benton Coop Tel Co

Form 481 Line No. 1210 Lifeline Plans Terms and Conditions

BENTON COOPERATIVE TELEPHONE COMPANY
RICE, MINNESOTA

Section 4
Page 1

LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

The rates for Local Exchange Service are subject to the conditions set forth herein and the General Regulations governing provision of service. The General Regulations are set forth in Section 2 of this tariff book.

Local Exchange Service

- A. The Local Exchange Service Rates in this section are for service only and do not include any terminal equipment beyond the point of demarcation.
- B. The rates applicable to Local Exchange Service are composed of a Line Access Rate component plus (where applicable) an Extended Area Service component.
- C. Service Upgrades
 - 1) At the option of the Company, services will be upgraded to business individual line and residence individual line or two party services as facilities for the provision of such services permit.
 - 2) Upgrading of business and residence services may be accomplished on a line by line basis at the option of the Company.
 - 3) As an exchange is upgraded, as set forth in 1) above, the rates shown on the appropriate rate schedule will be applied.
- D. Extended Area Service
 - 1) Establishment and discontinuance of EAS will be contingent upon Commission authorization.
 - 2) Extended Area Service rate component.
 - a) EAS is a premium-type service offering made by the Company to certain exchanges, under specific conditions.
 - b) The Extended Area Service rate component, where applicable, is included in the Local Exchange Service Rate.
- E. Taxes
 - 1) Applicable taxes levied by state, county and local taxing authorities are in addition to the rates set forth in this tariff. (See also General Regulations, Section 2).

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RICE, MINNESOTA

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Revision 5

LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

RATES

Exchange - Bock

Class of Service

Monthly Rates

BUSINESS:

One Party	\$ 8.75
PBX Trunk	11.00
Key System Line	11.00
Basic Coin Telephone Service	8.75

RESIDENCE:

One Party	\$12.60 (I)
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All rates are billed in advance. Payment for service is due when the statement is rendered.

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Effective: 6-1-2013

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RICE, MINNESOTA

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Revision 5

LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

RATES

Exchange - Foreston

Class of Service

Monthly Rates

BUSINESS:

One Party	\$ 8.75
PBX Trunk	11.00
Key System Line	11.00
Basic Coin Telephone Service	8.75

RESIDENCE:

One Party	\$11.50 (I)
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All rates are billed in advance. Payment for service is due when the statement is rendered.

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RICE, MINNESOTA

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Revision 5

LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

RATES

Exchange - Gilman

Class of Service

Monthly Rates

BUSINESS:

One Party	\$ 8.75
PBX Trunk	11.00
Key System Line	11.00
Basic Coin Telephone Service	8.75

RESIDENCE:

One Party	\$ 9.70 (I)
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All rates are billed in advance. Payment for service is due when the statement is rendered.

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RICE, MINNESOTA

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LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

RATES

Exchange – Ramey

Class of Service

Monthly Rates

BUSINESS:

One Party	\$ 8.75
PBX Trunk	11.00
Key System Line	11.00
Basic Coin Telephone Service	8.75

RESIDENCE:

One Party	\$ 9.70 (I)
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All rates are billed in advance. Payment for service is due when the statement is rendered.

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(D)

Effective: 6-1-2013

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RICE, MINNESOTA

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LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

RATES

Exchange – Rice

Class of Service

Monthly Rates

BUSINESS:

One Party	\$ 8.75
PBX Trunk	11.00
Key System Line	11.00
Basic Coin Telephone Service	8.75

RESIDENCE:

One Party	\$ 9.70 (I)
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All rates are billed in advance. Payment for service is due when the statement is rendered.

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RICE, MINNESOTA

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Revision 2

LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

Extended Area Service (EAS)

<u>Exchange</u>	<u>EAS To Exchanges</u>	<u>Rate</u>	
		<u>Residence</u>	<u>Business</u>
Bock	Milaca		
	Pease	\$ 1.40	\$ 1.80
Foreston	Foley		
	Gilman		
	Milaca		
	Pease	\$ 2.50	\$ 3.10
Gilman	Foley		
	Foreston		
	Ramey		
	Rice		
	St. Cloud	\$ 4.30	\$ 5.30
Ramey	Foley		
	Gilman		
	Rice		
	Royalton		
	St. Cloud	\$ 4.30	\$ 5.30
Rice	Foley		
	Gilman		
	Ramey		
	Royalton		
	St. Cloud	\$ 4.30	\$ 5.30

** 12-18-92

The Benton Telephone Board voted to give their subscribers one month extended area service (EAS) credit, as the charges are above, for the month of December 1992, this credit will show on the subscribers January 1993 bill.

Effective: 9-7-05

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SAC: 361356

State: MN

Benton Coop Tel Co

Form 481 Line No. 3017 RUS Annual Report

ATTACHMENT REDACTED IN ENTIRETY